

Municipal Court

Mission. Municipal Court strives to serve the citizens of the community by upholding the law in an unbiased and impartial manner and facilitating the interests of justice and the needs of all citizens in a thorough and fair manner.

Overview. Municipal Court is organized into three areas. The Clerk's Office is responsible for processing transactions related to court and traffic records. The Probation Office assists judges in defendant evaluation and prisoner and probationer monitoring. The Warrant Office processes and serves Municipal Court warrants.

Three traditional courtrooms are operated by Municipal Court. In addition, a Video Court room conducts video arraignments. Hearings for traffic violations are held in an Administrative Traffic Court, and environmental cases are heard in a rotating Neighborhood Court. Courtroom dockets include specialized DUI dockets, criminal dockets, domestic violence dockets, and traffic dockets.



Municipal Court operates five courtrooms in City Hall with environmental court held periodically at neighborhood Police substations

Finance and Operations. The budget provides for a continuation of the Public Safety Initiative that was launched in 1995. Technological advancements for the public safety computer system and document imaging are funded in the budget. Beginning in 2000, the budget shifts the Warrant Office from Court to the Police Department.

The Public Safety Initiative, which focused on augmenting Police, Court and Prosecution staff resources, added a total of nine full-time positions in Municipal Court. This includes two positions for an additional Administrative Traffic Court, three positions for the Neighborhood Court, two additional staff to improve customer service, a position to enhance collections activity, and a fingerprint clerk to comply with state requirements regarding fingerprinting those convicted of class A and B misdemeanors. The costs are accounted

for separately; however, functionally the positions are assigned to the Clerk's Office, the Probation Office, or the Warrant Office.

The budget includes funding for record imaging access for Court personnel. The system, expected to be fully implemented by 2000, will allow Court, Law and Police personnel to access court records more effectively. Funding for access to the new graphical user interface upgrade to the public safety information system is also included in the budget. A new interactive voice response system is also being implemented in Court to improve the dissemination of court information.

Funding has been approved by the City Council to remodel City Hall to provide enhanced court facilities. The remodel will better serve the public by expediting court room and court clerk access.

Municipal Court is responsible for collecting a variety of court imposed fines, fees and penalties. Revenues include ticket fines, court costs, diversion fines and fees, Public Defender and Domestic Violence program fees, and other revenues. The revenues partially offset the cost of adjudication, prosecution and enforcement efforts of Municipal Court, the Law Department and the Police Department.

Court Revenue Summary			
	1998	1999	2000
Traffic Fines	1,663,890	1,800,000	1,800,000
Parking Fines	386,567	350,000	350,000
Court Costs	2,176,649	2,396,300	2,396,300
Court Fines	2,712,229	3,348,500	3,348,500
Public Defender Fees	319,823	322,000	322,000
Wichita Intervention Program Fees	254,768	288,000	288,000
Diversion Fees and Fines	577,875	625,000	625,000
Other Revenue	907,124	889,000	890,000
Total Court Revenues	\$8,998,905	\$10,019,300	\$10,020,300

The 2000 budget includes \$2.6 million to fund the operations of the Clerk's Office. The funding supports docket clerks and judges that staff court rooms; clerks that assist citizens either on the telephone or in-person in the Municipal Court office; file clerks that assist in general docket preparation and file processing; and other positions that support the general court administration.

Selected Performance Measures			
	1998	1999	2000
Total Cases Filed	40,933	41,000	42,000
Total Traffic Cases Filed	18,574	20,000	20,000
Total Cases docketed	194,907	197,500	197,500
Total Traffic Cases docketed	88,042	90,000	90,000

Eight probation officers and seven support staff are funded in the Probation Office. Staff provides judges with 2,500 pre-sentence evaluations for defendants. In addition, over 20,000 contacts with probationers are made annually. At present, a consultant is reviewing the operations of the Probation Office, with recommendations expected later in 1999. The budget includes a \$50,000 contingency to implement recommended changes.

Selected Performance Measures			
	1998	1999	2000
Number of Pre-sentence evaluations ordered	2,534	2,750	2,750
Number of Probationer check in's	20,373	21,500	21,500

Funding is included for the Wichita Intervention Program (WIP), which provides alcohol education and intervention for eligible first-time defendants who plead guilty to drunk driving. The program couples intervention with the state mandated 48 hours of incarceration that is funded by a \$200 program fee charged to defendants.

A contract for public defenders to serve indigent defendants is funded. These costs are offset by a \$4 per case assessment and by co-payments made by defendants. An estimated 6,000 cases will be handled by public defenders in 1999.

Since 1991, the Court has managed the Warrant Office. This budget transfers the Warrant Office activities back to the Police Department. The shift will result in eleven full-time positions and four part-time staff being removed from Court. Court will retain one Warrant Supervisor and four Service Officer positions, added in 1999 with Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funding. The Service Officers focus on prisoner transportation duties, which have enabled Warrant Officers to focus on the apprehension of individuals with Municipal warrants.

In addition to General Fund resources, Court is funded partially with Local Law Enforcement Block Grant funding and Alcohol and Drug Safety and Abuse Programs (ADSAP) funds. ADSAP funds support three positions: a docket clerk, a clerk II and a probation officer.

In 1999, the Municipal Court initiated a Work Program. Defendants are offered the opportunity to either pay their fines or participate in community service work activities, to "work-off" the fine at a rate of compensation valued at \$5 per hour. Response to the program has been exceptional and program participation is expected to increase over time.

Municipal Court Budget Summary					
	1998 Actual	1999 Adopted	1999 Revised	2000 Adopted	2001 Approved
Personal Services	2,767,376	3,277,430	3,116,090	2,917,880	3,059,660
Contractual Services	1,162,018	1,431,950	1,527,790	1,537,210	1,493,550
Commodities	101,820	109,480	102,790	97,580	97,580
Capital Outlay	35,908	5,000	0		
Other	410,000	172,360	80,000	30,000	30,000
Total Municipal Court Expenditures	4,477,122	4,996,220	4,826,670	4,582,670	4,680,790
Local Law Enforcement Block Grant	0	0	132,320	142,030	155,710
ADSAP Fund	99,273	0	101,140	107,750	114,320
General Fund	4,477,122	4,996,220	4,826,670	4,582,670	4,680,790
Total Municipal Court Resources	4,576,395	4,996,220	5,060,130	4,832,450	4,950,820
Position Summary					
Total full-time	82	84	82	71	71
Total part-time	34	34	37	33	33
Total FTE	86.5	88.5	87.8	74.8	74.8